

Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting

January 13, 2014

Members Present: Monica Belyea, Alison Johnson, Rebecca MacLachlan, Jennifer Weymouth, Krishna Winston

Others Present: Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting on September 9 and November 18, 2013 were approved as presented.

No members of the public were present for the public hearing.

Ms. O'Rourke reported that efforts are underway to work with Wesleyan to start composting at the City's public schools. Wesleyan is looking for a more economical way to compost most of their food waste. Currently it is being transported to Ellington. The New Milford Farms facility might be more economical if more institutions in the City participated. Ms. O'Rourke is working on setting up a meeting with the school staff to discuss this possibility. Dr. Charles has offered her support to see if the program would be feasible. Ms. Belyea offered her help in connecting Ms. O'Rourke with the Food Services Director. Members also suggested contacting the grocery stores to see who might be interested.

Members were very excited about the Holiday lights recycling program. They suggested next year advertising it sooner and announcing it at the Tree Lighting in November. They also had the idea of writing "Recycle Holiday Lights" in Christmas lights at the Recycling Center.

Ms. O'Rourke announced that the Sanitation District Recycling Truck Driver was going to be interviewed for a radio podcast, as part of an educational science program organized by local resident, Rani Arbo. She is developing a series of different programs with science themes; one will be on recycling. It will be used by Middletown teachers (and possibly beyond Middletown) to teach elementary school children science topics.

Swap Shack Schedule

Jan 15	Monica
Jan 18	Alison
Jan 22	Open
Jan 29	Krishna
Feb 1	Julie

Feb 5

Open

Members discussed the Fair Pricing idea in the Sanitation District. Ms. O'Rourke explained why she did not go forward with the grant from DEEP. Members suggested the following plan for the District to move the idea forward:

Have the District advertise the smaller carts.

In February, approach the Commission about doing a pilot. Find out how many 65 gallon carts are currently available. Determine which streets will be included in the pilot.

Ms. O'Rourke said she and the Foreman have been taking an inventory of Main Street and working on correcting some of the discrepancies there.

Members discussed the Shred Event in April. In order to change things a bit, they suggested adding textiles to the event. Ms. O'Rourke said she would look into getting a container for a textile collection as well.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim O'Rourke
Recycling Coordinator